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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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JUN 12 1953

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Honorable Robert LeBaron
Chairman, Military Liaison Committee
to the Atomic Energy Commission Operations

Dear Mr. LeBaron:

Reference is made to our letter of January 2, 1953 which outlined the CASTLE Operation as we contemplated it at that preliminary stage. Since that time in the process of further development and test, it has become apparent that the number of shots should be increased in the interest of ensuring the resolution of factors bearing on emergency capability weapons and special material requirements. At this stage, we believe a program of six shots would assist materially in the above, and, accordingly, we have been working with Joint Task Force Seven on questions of the feasibility of such a program. From their standpoint and ours, it appears practicable to execute a six shot program and to maintain the proposed timing of CASTLE, provided the Atomic Energy Commission and the Department of Defense accept such a program and provided the various contributing phases such as special materials production at Oak Ridge remain on schedule.

Briefly stated, the program now being developed contemplates six shots: four shots [redacted] Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and two shots [redacted]

[redacted] University of California Radiation Laboratory. It is presently planned to detonate two shots at Eniwetok and four at Bikini. The first detonation is scheduled for February 15, 1954, with seven to ten days intervals between shots.

It should be emphasized, however, that the actual scope and plan for execution of CASTLE cannot be fixed until about September. At that time the relevant factors bearing on the merits of the various proposals and on the operational capabilities and limitations both of material production and of a Task Force nature will be more complete. We hope crystallization of these factors will be sufficient at that time to enable us to reach agreement on the specific scope for CASTLE.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
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In the meantime, we would appreciate assurance that the Department of Defense concurs that planning should proceed on the basis of an augmented CASTLE as described above, subject to final resolution of specific plans this Fall, and that all concerned can proceed into the operational phase of CASTLE on the same basis as we did in the IVY Operation, which proved so successful.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Dean
Chairman

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